

STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION

DRAFT

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

February 1, 2010

A meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Stonington Town Hall. Voting members present were Mr. Donald Murphy, Mr. Donald Raffo and Mr. Alan Banister.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Raffo to accept the December 2, 2009 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mr. Banister. The motion was unanimously passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter dated December 31, 2009 from Mr. Taylor stating his interest in aquaculture in Stonington waters.

BUSINESS

1. Conditional Shellfish areas:

Area A, B and C were closed from 12/1/09 to 12/18/09 and open from 12/19/09 to 12/31/09. They were then closed on 1/1/10 until 1/28/10 and reopened on 1/29/10 and remain open.

2. Clam Restocking:

Mr. Murphy informed the Commission that in the future whenever clams are transplanted from a certified area to another certified area the Commission must apply to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (DABA) for a town recreational relay (transplant) license.

3. Meat Samples:

A discussion was held on the requirement to provide meat samples to DABA. The focus will be on area A and B and the Commission will supply meat samples (12-15 clams) from these areas when requested.

4. Budget:

The Commission requested its standard budget line item of \$50.00 from the town and has submitted this as its budget request.

5. Dock Applications:

The Commission noted that when it sent the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) its comments and requirements on dock applications they were not being inserted as conditions of a permit. The DEP did supply a response on this question but the Commission will continue to pursue this issue as the Commission felt that the response was not adequate.

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6. Equipment:

The boat is currently winterized, covered and in storage at Don's Dock. A motion to allocate up to \$800.00 to pay for storage, hauling and winterizing of the boat was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Banister and was approved unanimously.

7. Scallop Project:

The state informed the Commission that any scallop transplants must come from Long Island Sound (LIS) waters. No other locations are acceptable. If the shellfish originate outside of LIS, they must undergo an extensive quarantine process. Currently, the Commission does not have a L. I. Sound source for scallops but is continuing to look for a grower/source to supply scallops in the future. Mr. Murphy will set up a meeting with The Nature Conservancy to inform them of the status of the project. The Commission has decided to put the scallop project on hold for 2010 due to this complication. Alternate projects were discussed such as working with oysters but any alteration of the plan must be approved by both the Commission and The Nature Conservancy.

8. Commercial Harvest Permits:

In January, Commercial Harvesting Permit 10-01 was issued to Mike Theiler to harvest shellfish in the waters in the town of Stonington. In the past the Commission has issued a permit which included both approved and restricted relay waters. However, to be consistent with the practices of the Bureau Of Aquaculture it is better to issue separate permits. So the current permit was amended to allow only harvest in approved waters. The number for the approved-waters permit was changed to 10-01 A. The Commission then decided to issue Mr. Theiler a permit at no cost to allow harvest in restricted waters, specifically R-4. This permit will be numbered 10-01 R and will require a 10% return of approved clams to the Commission.

9. Permits:

The Commission decided to needs to amend its permits to reflect approved and non-approved waters. This will be taken up in future meetings.

10. Commercial Activities:

Steve Plant gave a brief overview of his current operations and said all is well.

11. New Business:

A short discussion on the status of Sandy Point and the upcoming hearing was discussed. Mr. Raffo and Mr. Banister plan to attend.

At 8:05 a motion was made by Mr. Raffo to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Banister and was approved.

Respectfully Submitted

Donald Raffo
Acting Secretary